



# GOP PLAN COULD CUT UP TO \$4.3 BILLION FROM HEALTH CARE, NURSING HOME BENEFITS FOR ALASKA RESIDENTS



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*The new Republican budget reflects upside-down priorities – it would shower the wealthiest few Americans with an average tax cut of at least \$150,000 – paying for it by ending Medicare as we know it, taking away the benefits Americans enjoy as a result of health reform, and putting more of the burden on middle class families. Their plan to block grant and cut \$1.7 trillion in health care services through Medicaid would put an end to vital services that seniors depend on like nursing home care and home health aides. If Republicans get their way, Alaska residents would lose \$4.3 billion in health benefits, including \$1.0 billion for seniors, and 80,000 residents could see their coverage cut entirely.*

**Republican Budget Could Force As Many As 80,000 Alaska Residents Off Medicaid.** Medicaid currently provides health coverage to roughly 100,600 Alaska residents, with the federal government picking up 50.00% of Alaska's Medicaid costs. At a minimum, the Ryan Plan could remove as many as 80,000 Alaska residents from the program. [CBPP, 3/20/12; Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/2011; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, 5/11]

**Republican Budget Cuts \$1.0 billion in Health Care for Alaska Seniors By Slashing Medicaid.** The House Republican budget could slash \$1.0 billion in nursing home care and other health care services for seniors and the disabled. In Alaska, over 22,500 seniors and disabled currently rely on Medicaid for their health care needs. While Medicare doesn't cover long-term care, 36.60% of Medicaid spending in Alaska provides this critical care for seniors, and is often the only avenue they have to get the care they need. The cost of long-term care can be financially devastating to seniors and their families, with nursing home costs averaging \$239,075 in Alaska for a private room – and that average is rising every year. These cuts could have a devastating impact on the 15 Alaska certified nursing homes, which serve 640 seniors, with more than half relying on Medicaid as their primary payer. As a result, nursing homes would be forced to slash services, turn away seniors, or close their doors. [Kaiser Commission on Medicaid, 2/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; MetLife, 10/11; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12; KFF, accessed on 3/21/12]

